WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for requesting a server to provide a service to an application, comprising:

an input for receiving from the application a service request including first information which directs a server to route to the application a data stream associated with a service; and

an information transformer coupled to said input for transforming said first information in said service request into second information which directs the server to route the data stream to a proxy which is installed in a communication path from the server to the application and which is operable for performing a proxy operation on the data stream.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data compression operation, a data transformation operation and a data transcoding operation.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data encryption operation and a data cacheing operation.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1, including a socket interceptor coupled to said input for intercepting the service request as provided by the application and for forwarding the service request to said input.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said first information includes a first IP address and port number produced by the application, and wherein said second information includes a second IP address and port number produced by said information transformer.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said second information includes information which identifies for the server how to route the data stream to the proxy.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the proxy is a first proxy in a chain interconnected proxies.

8. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said second information includes information that identifies an input network service point associated with the proxy.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, including a further input for receiving said second information from an apparatus that has automatically allocated said input network service point.

10. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the input network service point includes one of a TCP socket and a UDP socket.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said first information includes a first routable address such as an IP address and any additional required information to address the application, and wherein said second information includes a second routable address and any additional information provided by said information transformer.

12. A method of requesting a server to provide a service to an application, comprising:

receiving from the application a service request including first information which directs a server to route to the application a data stream associated with a service; and

transforming said first information in said service request into second information which directs the server to route the data stream to a proxy which is installed in a communication path from the server to the application and which is operable for performing a proxy operation on the data stream.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data compression operation, a data transformation operation and a data transcoding operation.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data encryption operation and a data cacheing operation.

15. The method of Claim 12, wherein said receiving step includes intercepting the service request as provided by the application.

16. The method of Claim 12, wherein said first information includes a first IP address and port number produced by the application, and wherein said second information includes a second IP address and port number.

17. The method of Claim 12, wherein said second information includes information which identifies for the server how to route the data stream to the proxy.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the proxy is a first proxy in a chain interconnected proxies.

19. The method of Claim 17, wherein said second information includes information that identifies an input network service point associated with the proxy.

20. The method of Claim 19, including receiving the second information from an apparatus that has automatically allocated said input network service point.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein the input network service point includes one of a TCP socket and a UDP socket.

22. The method of Claim 12, wherein said first information includes all necessary routing information and additional required information to address the application, and wherein said second information includes a second routing information and additional required information to address the application.